

I Claim:

1. In a communicator appliance, a device for generating a vibration to provide a signal to the user, said signal indicating incoming communications comprising:

a housing having a compartment constructed therein to accommodate a vibration generating device;

a stator mounted in the communicator housing having means to receive a rotor for rotation thereon about an axis;

a plurality of windings mounted and circumferentially spaced on the stator, each of said windings having means to connect a voltage thereto;

a rotor mounted for rotation on the stator, said rotor constructed of a permanently magnetized material, said rotor being further formed and mounted for magnetic coupling with the stator coils, said rotor constructed in the form of a substantially flat disc of less than a fully cylindrical shape to position its center of mass eccentric to the axis of rotation;

a controller connected to a voltage source and constructed to sequentially supply a series of drive pulses to the stator windings by

electrical commutation, so as impart rotation to the permanent magnet rotor; and

wherein the stator and rotor are assembled in a compact operative relation and mounted within the compartment.

2. In a communicator appliance, a device for generating a vibration to provide a signal to the user, said signal indicating incoming communications as described in claim 1 wherein the rotor is shaped in the form of a sector of a disc encompassing 180° or less.

3. In a communicator appliance, a device for generating a vibration to provide a signal to the user, said signal indicating incoming communications as described in claim 2 wherein the rotor is constructed with a recess to allow close mechanical and magnetic cooperation with the stator.

4. In a communicator appliance, a device for generating a vibration to provide a signal to the user, said signal indicating incoming communications as described in claim 1 wherein the windings comprise at least 100 turns of wire.

5. In a communicator appliance, a device for generating a vibration to provide a signal to the user, said signal indicating incoming communications as described in claim 1 wherein the controller is constructed as part of an integrated circuit control system for the communicator appliance.

6. In a communicator appliance, a device for generating a vibration to provide a signal to the user, said signal indicating incoming communications as described in claim 1 wherein the voltage source has a value of 3.6 volts ~~or~~ higher.

7. In a communicator appliance, a device for generating a vibration to provide a signal to the user, said signal indicating incoming communications as described in claim 1 wherein the compartment for accommodating the vibration generating device is constructed in the housing at the furthest available position from the center of gravity of the appliance.